



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Written Testimony Presented to the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
and  
Senate Committee on Technology  
Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 3:05 p.m.  
by  
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SB 3058 – RELATING TO TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chairs Kim and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Kidani and English, and Members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports this bill.

In 2017, the Legislature supported UH's efforts to promote the commercialization of inventions and discoveries generated by its faculty, students and alumni by giving UH the responsibility to ensure that technology transfer activities it sponsors comport with ethic principles embodied in the State Ethics Code. Pursuant to Act 38, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2017, University of Hawai'i sponsored technology transfer activities would be exempt from specific sections of the State Ethics Code so long as these technology transfer activities were subject to ethic policies and a compliance program established by UH that were specifically adapted to unique features of university-generated innovations.

The transfer of compliance responsibility to UH by Act 38 would sunset, however, on June 30, 2022.

The University of Hawai'i has developed draft policies and protocols and is consulting with the various stakeholder groups in the UH community, including its faculty. To continue the efforts to develop the policies, internal guidance, forms and procedural protocols to fully implement a robust compliance program, the University of Hawai'i respectfully requests that the sunset provision of Act 38, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2017, be deleted.

In the alternative, the University of Hawai'i would support a three year extension of the sunset date to June 30, 2025.